

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A drill attachment for coupling a tubular cutting member having a bore to drive means for rotating the cutting member, the drill attachment comprising:

a housing defining first and second fluid conduits; and

a drive shaft rotatably mounted within the housing and having fluid transmitting first and second end portions in fluid communication with the respective first and second fluid conduits, the first end portion being adapted for coupling to one of a tubular cutting member and a drive means and the second end portion being adapted for coupling to the other of the tubular cutting member and the drive means.

Claim 2 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for coupling to a tubular cutting member when dry drilling is required.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein at least one of said first and second end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for coupling to a tubular cutting member when wet drilling is required.

Claim 4 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said first and second end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for coupling to a tubular cutting member when dry drilling is required, and the other of said first and second end portions is adapted for coupling to a tubular cutting member when wet drilling is required.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting dust extracted from the bore of a tubular cutting member, and at least one of said first and second end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting an appropriate drilling fluid such as water to the bore of a tubular cutting member.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein one of said first and second fluid transmitting end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting dust extracted from the bore of a tubular cutting member, and the other of said first and second end portions of the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting water or other appropriate drilling fluid to the bore of a tubular cutting member.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein when dry drilling is required, a suction device is coupled to one of the first and second fluid conduits in the housing.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein when wet drilling is required, a drilling fluid supply is coupled to one of the fluid conduits in the housing.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein one of said first and second fluid conduits is adapted for coupling to a suction device, and the other of said first and second fluid conduits is adapted for coupling to a fluid supply.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive shaft is bearing mounted within the housing of the drill attachment.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive shaft is retained within said housing using circlips.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive shaft comprises a first axial bore which extends partially through the drive shaft from the first fluid transmitting end portion thereof, and terminates at a point within the drive shaft.

Claim 13 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 12, wherein the drive shaft comprises at least one radial bore which extends from the outer surface of the drive shaft and merges with said first axial bore.

Claim 14 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 13, wherein said at least one radial bore merges with the first axial bore in the region of the terminating end of said first axial bore.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein two radial bores are provided and are diametrically aligned such that a first diametric bore is defined which extends through the drive shaft in a direction normal to the axial direction of the drive shaft.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~ claim 12, wherein the drive shaft comprises a second axial bore which extends partially through the drive shaft from the second fluid transmitting end portion thereof, and terminates at a point within the drive shaft.

Claim 17 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 16, wherein the drive shaft further comprises at least one radial bore which extends from the outer surface of the drive shaft and merges with said second axial bore.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 16, wherein ~~Preferably,~~ said at least one axial bore merges with the second axial bore in the region of the terminating end of said second axial bore.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 17 ~~or 18,~~ wherein two radial bores are provided and are preferably diametrically aligned such that a second diametric bore is defined which extends through the drive shaft in a direction normal to the axial direction of the drive shaft.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 13 to 19~~ claim 13, wherein the location of said radial bores along the length of the drive shaft is such that said bores are substantially aligned with a respective first and second fluid conduit in the housing.

Claim 21 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 20, wherein one of said first and second axial bores and associated at least one radial bore in the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting dust from the bore of a cutting member to the respective fluid conduit in the housing.

Claim 22 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 21, wherein the other of said first and second axial bores and associated at least one radial bore is adapted for transmitting a drilling fluid from the respective fluid conduit in the housing to the bore of a cutting member.

Claim 23 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 22, wherein the drive shaft comprises fluid seals located on either side of the at least one radial bore through which drilling fluid may be supplied in order to prevent leakage of said drilling fluid.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein one end of a tubular cutting member for use with the drill attachment comprises coupling means for coupling to the drive shaft, and another opposite end of the tubular cutting member comprises cutting elements for effecting drilling.

Claim 25 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 24, wherein the coupling means includes threaded coupling means.

Claim 26 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 25, wherein the tubular cutting member comprises a male threaded portion which is received within a female threaded portion provided on an end portion of the drive shaft.

Claim 27 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 25, wherein the cutting member comprises a female threaded portion which receives a male threaded portion provided at an end portion of the drive shaft.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive shaft comprises means for preventing rotation within the housing when a tubular cutting member is coupled thereto using a threaded connection.

Claim 29 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 28, wherein the rotation prevention means is in the form of diametrically opposed land portions located at at least one end portion of the drive shaft, said land portions providing gripping means for a tool to restrain the drive shaft from rotational motion.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 24 to 29~~ claim 24, wherein the coupling means of the tubular cutting member is provided on a shank portion associated therewith.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 30, wherein the shank portion is formed integrally with the cutting ~~member~~ member.

Claim 32 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 30, wherein the shank portion is independently coupled to the coupling member.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 30, ~~31 or 32~~, wherein the shank portion includes a throughbore permitting fluid transmission between the bore of the cutting member and one of the first and second fluid conduits in the housing when in use.

Claim 34 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drill attachment is adapted for use with a selection of tubular cutting members having various bore diameters.

Claim 35 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 34, wherein the drill attachment is adapted for use with cutting members having bore diameters of around 20 to 250 mm and above.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 24 to 35~~ claim 24, wherein large diameter tubular cutting members, particularly those for use in dry drilling operations, have a plurality of extraction apertures in the base thereof, adjacent to the coupling means.

Claim 37 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 36, wherein tubular cutting members having a bore diameter greater than around 70 mm comprise dust extraction apertures in the base thereof.

Claim 38 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein where large diameter tubular cutting members are used, an adapter is provided which comprises the coupling means for coupling to the end portion of the drive shaft, upon which adapter the tubular cutting member is mounted.

Claim 39 (Original): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 38, wherein the adapter comprises a plurality of radially extending mounting pins which are received within engaging slots provided in the tubular cutting member.

Claim 40 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 38 ~~or 39~~, wherein tubular cutting members having a bore diameter greater than around 70 mm are coupled to the drive shaft using an adapter.

Claim 41 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in claim 38, ~~39 or 40~~, wherein the adapter further comprises a plurality of extraction apertures.

~~Claim 41~~ **Claim 42 (Currently amended):** A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 36 to 40~~ claim 36, wherein where dust extraction is effected through extraction apertures, the dust is drawn into a chamber in the housing and through one of the first and second fluid conduits.

~~Claim 42~~ Claim 43 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 44~~ claim 42, wherein the chamber is an annular chamber defined between the outer surface of a portion of the drive shaft and the inner surface of a portion of the housing.

~~Claim 43~~ Claim 44 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 42~~ claim 43, wherein the chamber is located within the region surrounding one of said first and second axial bores in the drive shaft.

~~Claim 44~~ Claim 45 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 41, 42 or 43~~ claim 42, wherein the chamber is open at one end providing an opening through which dust may be drawn into said chamber.

~~Claim 45~~ Claim 46 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 44~~ claim 45, wherein only one side of the drilling attachment is adapted for dry drilling when large bore cutting members are used and dust is to be extracted through extraction apertures as well as through a shank portion used to couple the cutting member to the drive shaft.

~~Claim 46~~ Claim 47 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 41 to 45~~ claim 42, wherein the chamber is located at a first side of the drill attachment and is in fluid communication with the first fluid conduit in the housing.

~~Claim 47~~ Claim 48 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 46~~ claim 47, wherein the side of the drilling attachment comprising the chamber is also adapted for use in wet drilling, wherein means are provided for closing the opening through which dust is extracted into the chamber during dry drilling.

~~Claim 48~~ Claim 49 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 47~~ claim 48, wherein such means includes an annular body mounted within the opening, which annular body comprises a plurality of apertures which remain open during dry drilling, but which are closed during wet drilling to prevent leakage of drilling fluid.

~~Claim 49~~ Claim 50 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 48~~ claim 49, wherein the apertures are selectively opened and closed by use of an annular plate mounted on or within said annular body, which annular plate has corresponding apertures which are aligned with those of the annular body during dust extraction, but which are misaligned with the apertures of the annular body, in order to close said apertures, during wet drilling.

~~Claim 50~~ Claim 51 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 49~~ claim 50, wherein a fluid sealing arrangement is provided between the annular body and annular plate in order to maintain sealing integrity and to prevent leakage of the drilling fluid.

~~Claim 51~~ Claim 52 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claim 41 to 50~~ claim 42, wherein the chamber is in selective fluid communication with one of the first and second fluid conduits in the housing, such that a fluid path between the chamber and said fluid conduit is open when dust is extracted through extraction apertures.

~~Claim 52~~ Claim 53 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 51~~ claim 52, wherein selective fluid communication between the chamber and the fluid conduit is achieved by use of a sliding collar provided on the housing.

~~Claim 53~~ Claim 54 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 52~~ claim 53, wherein the sliding collar is provided on the inner surface of the housing at the location of the chamber.

~~Claim 54~~ Claim 55 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 52 or 53~~ claim 53, wherein the collar is moveable in an axial direction from a first position where the fluid path is closed, to a second position where the fluid path is open.

~~Claim 55~~ Claim 56 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive shaft has an annular ring mounted on the outer surface thereof, said ring having substantially the same outer diameter as the inner diameter of the portion of the housing defining the chamber.

~~Claim 56~~ Claim 57 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 55 when dependent on any one of claims 41 to 55~~ claim 56, wherein a chamber is defined in the housing into which chamber dust is drawn through one of the first and second fluid conduits and the annular ring is aligned with the fluid conduit in fluid communication with the chamber.

~~Claim 57~~ Claim 58 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 56~~ claim 57, wherein the ring is aligned along the centre-line of the fluid conduit in fluid communication with the chamber.

~~Claim 58~~ Claim 59 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 55, 56 or 57~~ claim 56, wherein when the collar is moved to close the fluid path between the fluid conduit and the chamber, that is, towards a first position, a first end of the collar will abut a side face of the ring, therefore closing a portion of the fluid conduit and consequently said fluid path.

~~Claim 59~~ Claim 60 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 54~~ claim 55, wherein when large diameter cutting members are used in dry drilling operations where dust is extracted through the shank portion and extraction apertures, the collar is extended from the housing towards the second, open position, towards the base of the cutting member, wherein the second end of the collar is substantially aligned with the base of the cutting member.

~~Claim 60~~ Claim 61 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 54~~ claim 55, wherein when small diameter cutting members are used in dry drilling operations where dust is extracted through the throughbore in the shank portion only, the collar is retracted into the housing towards the first position, closing the fluid path between the chamber and the associated fluid conduit.

~~Claim 61~~ Claim 62 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 52 to 60~~ claim 53, wherein the collar comprises a plurality of axially arranged circumferential depressions in the outer surface thereof, said depressions adapted to receive an inwardly extending lip provided on the housing.

~~Claim 62~~ Claim 63 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 64~~ claim 62, wherein interaction of the circumferential depressions and the lip acts to retain the collar in the desired position such that the collar cannot inadvertently be pushed into or pulled from the housing during a drilling operation.

~~Claim 63~~ Claim 64 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 52 to 60~~ claim 53, wherein the collar includes a plurality of longitudinal ribs circumferentially distributed about the outer surface of the collar, said ribs defining a number of depressions adapted to receive an inwardly extending lip provided on the housing.

~~Claim 64~~ Claim 65 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein tubular cutting members used with the drill attachment may be used in both wet and dry drilling operations.

~~Claim 65~~ Claim 66 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 64~~ claim 65, wherein large diameter tubular cutting members having extraction apertures in the base thereof comprise means for blocking said apertures in order to prevent drilling fluid from pouring from the bore of the cutting member during a wet drilling operation.

~~Claim 66~~ Claim 67 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 65~~ claim 66, wherein said blocking means includes plugs which are fitted within the apertures.

~~Claim 67~~ Claim 68 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 65~~ claim 66, wherein said blocking means includes a plate rotatably mounted on the cutting member or appropriate adapter, said plate being rotatable to selectively open and close the extract apertures.

~~Claim 68~~ Claim 69 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 65~~ claim 66, wherein the blocking means includes a unitary component having a plurality of plugs each formed and arranged to be received within a respective extraction aperture.

~~Claim 69~~ Claim 70 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 68~~ claim 69, wherein adjacent plugs of the unitary component may be joined together by a linking member.

~~Claim 70~~ Claim 71 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 69~~ claim 70, wherein the linking members serves to provide a means for removing the plugs of the unitary component from the extraction apertures.

~~Claim 71~~ Claim 72 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drilling attachment is adapted to be coupled to a tubular cutting member via an extension portion.

~~Claim 72~~ Claim 73 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 71~~ claim 72, wherein said extension portion comprises an elongate tubular member having a throughbore and including threaded portions at either end thereof for coupling to the drive shaft and a tubular cutting member or appropriate cutting member adapter.

~~Claim 73~~ Claim 74 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 71 or 72~~ claim 72, wherein where large diameter cutting members are used in dry drilling operations and dust is to be extracted through extraction apertures, an additional tubular member is provided which surrounds the extension portion and provides an encased path for dust to be drawn from the bore of the cutting member and into the drill attachment housing.

~~Claim 74~~ Claim 75 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 73~~ claim 74, wherein the additional tubular member is coupled to the drill attachment via an appropriate adapter.

~~Claim 75~~ Claim 76 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein means are provided to secure a pilot drill to the drill attachment.

~~Claim 76~~ Claim 77 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 75~~ claim 76, wherein said means for securing a pilot drill to the drill attachment may be provided on the drive shaft at at least one end portion thereof.

~~Claim 77~~ Claim 78 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 75 or 76~~ claim 76, wherein the means for securing a pilot drill to the drill attachment comprises at least one grub screw which extends radially through the drive shaft and grips a pilot drill located within one of the first and second axial bores.

~~Claim 78~~ Claim 79 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 77~~ claim 78, wherein where the at least one grub screw extends through the drive shaft at a portion of the shaft which is contained within the housing, access to said at least one grub screw may be achieved through one of the first and second fluid conduits in the housing of the drill attachment.

~~Claim 79~~ Claim 80 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive means is a drilling.

~~Claim 80~~ Claim 81 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive means is coupled to the drive shaft by threaded coupling means.

~~Claim 81~~ Claim 82 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the drive means comprises a male threaded portion which engages a female threaded portion provided on the drive shaft.

~~Claim 82~~ Claim 83 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 80~~ claim 1, wherein the drive means is coupled to the drive shaft via an adapter.

~~Claim 83~~ Claim 84 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 82~~ claim 83, wherein one end of the adapter comprise a male threaded portion adapted to be coupled to the drive shaft, and the opposite end comprises a pin adapted to be received in a chuck of the drive ~~means~~ means.

~~Claim 84~~ Claim 85 (Currently amended): A drill attachment for coupling a tubular cutting member having a bore to drive means for rotating the cutting member, said drill attachment comprising:

a housing defining a fluid conduit; and

a drive shaft rotatably mounted within the housing and having a fluid transmitting end portion being in fluid communication with the fluid conduit and being adapted for coupling to a tubular cutting member, and a drive end portion being adapted for coupling to drive means, said housing and said drive shaft together defining a chamber having an opening in selective fluid communication with said fluid conduit.

~~Claim 85~~ Claim 86 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 84~~ claim 85, wherein the opening of the chamber in selective fluid communication with fluid conduit is located at the end thereof adjacent the fluid transmitting end portion of the drive shaft.

~~Claim 86~~ Claim 87 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 84 or 85~~ claim 85, wherein the fluid transmitting end portion of the drive shaft is in fluid communication with the fluid conduit via the chamber defined by the drive shaft and the housing.

~~Claim 87~~ Claim 88 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~claim 84, 85 or 86~~ claim 85, wherein the chamber defined by the housing and the drive shaft is an annular chamber.

~~Claim 88~~ Claim 89 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 84 to 87~~ claim 85, wherein the drill attachment is adapted for use in both dry and wet drilling operations.

~~Claim 89~~ Claim 90 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 84 to 88~~ claim 85, wherein the fluid transmitting end portion of the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting drilling fluid to the bore of a tubular cutting member.

~~Claim 90~~ Claim 91 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in ~~any one of claims 84 to 89~~ claim 85, wherein the fluid transmitting end portion of the drive shaft is adapted for transmitting dust extracted from the bore of a cutting member.

~~Claim 91~~ Claim 92 (Currently amended): A drill attachment as claimed in
~~any one of claims 84 to 90~~ claim 85, wherein the opening in the fluid chamber is
adapted for transmitting dust extracted from the bore of a tubular cutting member.